

April 9, 1984

LB 466

what it stands for because I feel that the wildlife of the State of Nebraska is something very precious and there are many, many people that feel the same way I do and would like to voluntarily contribute to the fund for the preservation and the education on the wildlife of the State of Nebraska and the endangered species. I urge you to override the Governor's veto. There is no cost to the state and the money incurred, the expense incurred by this LB 466 will come out of the fund. So there is no expense whatsoever. The first year there will be a \$25,000 program set up but that will come out of the voluntary funds that are contributed by the people of Nebraska that are vitally interested in our wildlife. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I rise in opposition to Senator Labedz's motion to override the Governor's veto of LB 466. This bill was discussed on General, Select and Final Reading. I think the issue is not so much whether or not we in the Legislature are supportive of endangered game and species because I think to a person we all support endangered game and species. I think to a person we are conservationists, environmentalists and people who care about our wildlife. That is not the issue. That is not the issue. The issue is a simple issue. Should we permit our income tax system, should we permit our income tax system to be used for a voluntary checkoff program to fund an operation of state government that we can easily fund out of general funds? And that is the issue. Or instead, should we save our income tax return voluntary checkoff program for an offering that we simply are not in a position of using public money for at this time in our collective life and that offering can well be the funding of political campaigns or what have you as currently is done on the federal level. Now today if people wish to make voluntary contributions to protect endangered game and species, they may contribute voluntarily to the Nebraska Wildlife Federation, to the National Wildlife Federation, to the Conservancy Council, to the Sierra Club and to a whole host of private organizations that exist to protect our environment and our wildlife. What we do with this measure